

17. A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.
18. A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.
19. A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.
20. An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 2.
21. An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 3.
22. An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 4.
23. An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 5.
24. An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 6.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request examination of the present application as amended herein.

Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Claims 3-7 have been amended. Claims 10-24 have been added. Upon entry of the above preliminary amendment, claims 1-7 and 10-24

remain pending in the application. A marked up version of the amended claims is attached hereto in Appendix A. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A - Amended Claims

3. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

4.(Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture [of two or more such amines] thereof.

5. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

6. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

7. (Amended) An isocyanate [able to be] prepared [by] according to a process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1.

Please add the following new claim:

10. (New) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

11. (New) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

12. (New) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

13. (New) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

14. (New) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.
15. (New) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.
16. (New) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.
17. (New) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.
18. (New) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.
19. (New) A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.
20. (New) An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 2.
21. (New) An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 3.
22. (New) An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 4.
23. (New) An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 5.
24. (New) An isocyanate prepared according to a process as claimed in claim 6.